TARC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2004

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
T. A. R. C
Titusville, Florida

Post Office Box 73
Titusville, FL 32781-0073

President:	Bud Hughes	K4CWG	269-0779
Vice President:	Bob Keim	W4TAT	383-1509
Secretary/Treasurer:	Becky Lee	KF4HTB	267-9375
Newsletter Editor:	Bob Green	N3DMI	637-3469

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month, 1900 Hrs at the Jaycee's Building, 405 North Singleton Avenue North of Garden Street. Talk-in 146.91 mHz

Eatin Meeting: Thursday nights, 1730-1830 Hrs at a local restaurant. Contact Sherry Hughes 269-0779 or 146.91 mHz

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE PREZ

Sherry and I towed our camp-trailer over to Orlando Thursday. At the campsite, we parked next to Don K4DRA and of course we took advantage of Don and Joan's hospitality. It was nice to be able to forego the driving back and forth to and from the ham-fest.

In spite of the TARC club table at the Orlando Hamfest being located at the opposite end of the building, most every one seem to have found the new location. As in years gone by TARC rented a couple of ham fest tables. Anyone who had any equipment for sale was encouraged to place the same on the table. I really appreciate the TARC members who served behind the table to assist in the negotiations and sales of club's and club members' equipment.

A special thanks to Pat KF4LTY for her keeping record of what sold and to whom it belonged. From the club table I was able to sell enough of my equipment to convince Sherry to loan me enough of her butter and egg money to buy me a new IC706.

Tom K1TJK and his wife, a long time member and supporter of our club from Seabrook, N.H. are temporarily over at McDill AFB. Tom has promised that they will be at our next Club meeting. We are looking forward to them being with us.

We are saddened to learn of Stephanie's loss. Her only brother passed away. To Stephanie and her family we extend our deepest symphony and condolences.

I want to thank Bob N3DMI for a great job performance as our Newsletter Editor. Please give Bob support by submitting to him for articles his review and inclusion in our Newsletter.

Hope to see you at our next club meeting. Bring a friend

Bud K4CWG 73s & 88s

Secretary - Treasurer's Report

Titusville Amateur Radio Club
01/27/04 Meeting Minutes

Club Officers Present
Pres: Bud Hughes, K4CWG
V.Pres: Bob Keim, W4TAT

Elected Board Members Present
Pike Abell, W4EPU
Bob Farrington, W4YBI
Hank Phillips, AA4HP
John Renninger, KE4ZPA

Repeater Custodian Board Present
Ken Denman, KD4HNW
Les Griner, K4SJC
Ozzie Osband, N4SCY

TARC President, Bud Hughes, K4CWG, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, with the "Pledge of Allegiance," a moment of silence, and the members identifying themselves with names and call signs. (Over 50 members were in attendance)

Our club Secretary, due to illness, was not in attendance, so Bud asked K4MVO if she'd take the meeting minutes. Bud then asked Bill Epply, N2SDB, to play "Happy Birthday" on his harmonica for all those members celebrating birthdays in the month of January. Bill added a special, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" song for Les Griner, K4SJC, who is celebrating his 39th birthday for the 49th time. Bill also played "76 Trombones" from the "Music Man" and then finished his recital with, "Dixie" which prompted many members to stand and join in with the lyrics.

Bud also explained that Bud, KG4RFT's, Birthday should have also been listed in the Club's Newsletter, and reminded the membership that if they notice any errors, they should inform our club Secretary & Treasurer, Becky, KF4HTB, so she can update the official club records.

Bud shared the somber story of member Mick Whelpley, WY1K, and his life long search for his biological mother. His journey sadly concluded with his locating his mother just after she had passed away. His consolation is that now he has her ashes and he won't have to wonder any more about where she might be; because he knows she will now always be with Him.

The business portion of the meeting started with Stephanie, K4MVO, TARC's alternate representative to BEARS, reporting that Bob Lay, Brevard County's Emergency Manager, has received the Emergency Manager of the Year Award, by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association, FEPA. She then presented the following three topics:

1. A sign-up sheet for the upcoming CAT's sponsored trip to Tallahassee for the State Emergency Response Team orientation and badges. Brevard County ARES members who are interested in becoming active with the Communication Assistance Teams (CATs) are encouraged to take this trip.

2. A sign-up sheet for the ARRL sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course, (ARECC) which will be offered next month. Bob, N3DMI and Ray, N4LEM (Brevard County EC) are working out the details so you'll get your $45 registration fee refunded upon completion, through the ARRL. Ed, KG4KVO, TARC's representative to BEARS and North Brevard AEC, who has recently completed the ARECC Level Three, has volunteered to help with the instruction. Classes to start in February, (dates and time to be determined,) at the County EOC in Rockledge.

3. Asked if there was any more interest in a Ham Radio class and sent out a 3rd sign-up sheet. She offered to start the class next month with classes at the JayCees' building or at the Titusville Police Department.

Ozzie, N4SCY, proposed a Special Event on Halloween this year to commemorate the historic and memorable "War of the Worlds" broadcast of 1938. He offered to "chair" the effort and he suggested we set up at the JayCees' building, on the edge of the Dunn Airpark, because Dunn is FAA airport code X21, which is coincidently the same as the ham radio call sign used during that 1938 broadcast. During the Special Event we would say, "X21 calling CQ from amateur radio station K4KSC." (our club's call sign) He also suggested this Special Event take place between Saturday, 7pm local, and Sunday midnight local, the last weekend of October.

Another member brought up the subject of Willie's, KD4JBL, recent marriage, and that he and his wife are expecting an addition to the family. Subsequently all the members cheered, "Congratulations!"

Another member asked for Sherry's answer to "Worried from the humorous advice column in this month's newsletter, "Dear Sherry." Sherry responded with, "Yes, tell her, prayerfully." Then she added, "Let's take a snack break." Which prompted Pike, W4EPU, to ask that we set a time limit for the break so we could return to the Board of Directors' business item on this evening's agenda. This prompted a suggestion that the break be postponed until the end of the business meeting. All members agreed and then Bud turned the floor over to the Club Vice President, Bob, W4TAT.

Bob led a discussion about the topics mentioned in his newsletter article, "TARC Board of Directors Have First Meeting of the Year." January 2004. He asked the membership if they had any comments or suggestions to help TARC grow and expand. He explained that he felt we needed to have a Field Day committee established before June, so our participation in this special event would be more successful. He also suggested that our club needs to have more publicity and newspaper coverage about our activities, similar to what other clubs in the area have. The membership's discussion included a suggestion from K4MVO to add an Education Committee to those already listed in the article. Then Jan, W4REN, suggested a Telephone Tree committee, much like what IRARC uses. Then Bill, N2SDB, explained how the Telephone Tree works, and how each member has to make only a few calls, and eventually all members are notified. He verifies the success of the Telephone Tree at IRARC meetings, by asking those in attendance if they have recently received a call. Someone mentioned a membership committee, K4MVO suggested a DX contest committee like the PCARS have, especially now that we have a club call sign K4KSC. The discussion also included comments about how ad hoc and standing committees are created.

W4TAT took an informal head count of members currently on the internet, and with most members responding positively, he then asked Ozzie, N4SCY, if he could link the TARC Website with the Mosquito Net Website for better distribution of information and for receipt of comments.

Bob, W4YBI, made a suggestion that this be the first of the two required meetings, where the general membership is asked to consider the addition of the proposed committees. K4MVO, acting as Secretary, asked if that was a motion, to which Bob, N3DMI, responded by making the following motion, "That the Board of Directors consider the creation of committees as stated in the newsletter and from the current input from the membership to be given to Bud for approval and appointment." K4MVO asked to have the motion restated so she could record it in the minutes and Hank, AA4HP, restated the motion, "the Board of Directors should solicit the general membership for their level of interest in creating and participating in committees as suggested in the newsletter." This motion was seconded, and then moved by unanimous approval. W4TAT then returned the floor back to Bud, K4CWG.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm, and then everyone enjoyed the delicious treats and K4SJC's birthday cake, provided by the Sherry, KU4ZO, and Pat,

KF4LTY, and the other Kitchen Angels. Finally, after much socializing, members cleared the building at around 9pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie P. Phillips, K4MVO, For Becky Lee, KF4HTB

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Bal.	$2101.09
Deposits	130.00
Total Income	2231.09
Expenditures	146.80
Balance 1/31/04	$2084.09

NEW MEMBERS

N9TN	Bill Borgstrom
KC9TCH	Kim Borgstrom
K4WSJ	Robert Husband

RENEWALS

KE4WJV	Terry Dampier
KE4AOW	W. S. Dampier
KF4ZOL	Jimmy Edwards
KG4FXR	Frankie Erskin
K4KON	Bruce Hoover
AE4CB	David Hurst
AC4WM	Mitch Mathney
WB4ZUY	Wynn Rostek
KC2ENO	Art Smith
N2JY	Judy Smith
KD4DOJ	Faye Skidmore
WD8JLT	Brian Sonnenberg
KC4HIQ	Richard Sweatt
KC4HIO	Shirley Sweatt
WB4ZUZ	Theresa Valek
KT4UD	Leonard Zbiegien

Abell's Anecdotes.

By Pike W4EPU

On numerous occasions I have written articles here about some of my experiences during the war, dealing with subjects which, identify in one way or another with amateur radio or communications in general. Invariably, the subject of CW somehow works its way in and tends to dominate the subject. As you will soon see, this article is no exception.

'During the war' is not limited to WW-II, of which I am a veteran radio operator-training officer. It also includes "Cold War" of which I am also a veteran in the same general field.

We trained a lot of Agent radio operators back in those days. In order to weed out some of those who, shall we say, had a CW learning disability, we used a very effective Morse code aptitude test. The test had a high percentage of accuracy in determining who could learn the code without difficulty and who could not.

One of my assignments was to teach a high level diplomat of a foreign country to be a CW radio operator. I gave him the usual code aptitude test, which he flunked royally (No pun intended.)

Adding to the difficulty, the agent spoke not a word of English. Based on the test results, I reported to my superiors that we could not train him because he could not learn code or, at least it would be extremely difficult for him.

Shortly thereafter, word came down to me from 'up high' that, "This man *will* learn code and you *will* teach him." For the next few weeks the agent, our translator and I spent a lot of time together. He quickly mastered all of the other subjects – operating procedures, equipment operation, cryptography, etc. Morse code was obviously tough for him, but surprisingly, he eventually learned to send and receive CW, and quite proficiently I may add. Techniques developed while training this agent were used effectively in future operations, not only by me, but by my colleagues as well.

I never learned the agents name or rank. Moreover, the sad part of this story for me was that, as was usually the case, after he graduated from my one-on-one class, during which time we became very good friends, I never saw or heard from him again.

One thing I learned in that project and I shall never forget it. Anyone can learn Morse code and master it, if they put their minds to it, take their time, and have a good teacher...(Big grin)

73s es 88s

Interested in CW ?

Marvin Thorpe, KF4VRQ

Interested in learning CW or increasing your speed or earning a code proficiency award?

There are a number of companies or groups offering instruction in Morse code. The ARRL and W5YI come to mind, but there are others. Instruction is offered on audio tape, CD-ROM, computer software programs, and computer controlled hardware. Peruse current issues of CQ and QST for contact information.

I'll address the ARRL offerings since I have used them. The ARRL offers code audio tapes or CD's for learning the code and/or increasing your speed. See the ARRL website, www.arrl.org, for additional information.

The ARRL amateur station W1AW broadcasts code practice sessions and bulletins in code Monday through Friday. The code practice sessions are broadcast both slow (5, 7.5, 10, 13, and 15 wpm) and fast (35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13, and 10 wpm). The code bulletins are broadcast at 18 wpm. For the days/times/frequencies/speeds, see the W1AW schedule in the latest issue of QST.

Looking for more "wallpaper" for the shack? Copy a W1AW code proficiency run and submit your copy along with a fee of $10 ($7.50 for endorsements). You must copy solid for a least one minute. Your copy will be checked against the official text and, assuming you passed, the ARRL will mail your initial Code Proficiency Award (or endorsement). Certificates or endorsements offered up to 40 wpm. See the Contest Corral column and the W1AW schedule in the February issue of QST.

FISTS is an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the use of the international Morse code. One thing they offer is a "code buddy" program - a kind of "CW Elmer". You can check out their website at www.fists.org.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE

Brevard County citizen corps

Hazardous Weather Awareness Week Coming Up
With the approach of Spring, emergency preparedness officials are looking ahead to another wet and windy Florida storm season. "This winter has been typical for this time of year, relatively uneventful," according to Brevard County Emergency Management Director Bob Lay. "But the quiet won't last. We'll soon be experiencing daily thunderstorms and the potential for hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding."

To emphasize the need to plan for rough weather, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners has designated the week of February 22 as Hazardous Weather Awareness Week.

"We can't control the weather, but we can be prepared for it," Lay said.

In the next several Citizens Corps messages, we'll examine some of the weather hazards we face in Brevard County and steps we can take to minimize the risks they pose.

New Web Site Allows Brevard County Residents to Assess Their Storm Vulnerability

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has developed a new website that allows Brevard County residents to see how coastal storms might impact their individual homes and businesses. Developed by NOAA's Coastal Services Center in Charleston, S.C., the site allows users to enter an address in Brevard County and watch as an on-line map zooms to that location and ranks its potential risk to four weather hazards common to eastern Florida—storm surge, flooding, high winds, and erosion.

Located at www.csc.noaa.gov/rvat/, the website gives residents access to the same type of information emergency management officials use. To begin searching, users should click on the *"Interactive Mapping"* button on the left side of the page. When the map page appears, click on *the "Hazards Locator Tool"* button on the lower right part of the page.

Even as they learn what hazards they face, residents can also use the website to find ways to reduce their risks. The site's "About Hazards" section provides basic descriptions of different weather hazards, tips on the safety precautions residents can take to prepare for them, and links to Web sites with more information. The site also offers a link to the local National Weather Service office so that users can check for current threats.

The NOAA Coastal Services Center works to support the environmental, social, and economic well being of the coast by linking people, information, and technology. To learn more about the Center, please visit www.csc.noaa.gov.

Have a question?

Write to us at citizen.corps@brevardcounty.us and we'll do our best to get you a quick answer.

BOB'S ERRATIC THOUGHTS

Bob Green N3DMI

Recently, I had to strip down my PC. So I played it safe and took precautions and backed up all my vital files to CD's. Nine CD's two of which were for data the XYL had on my PC. So I had done every thing by the book and proceeded to type in the infamous "Format C:". No second thoughts, I was on a roll. I was in control. Well after I attempted to reload Windows 2000, the problems began; nothing would work, Murphy was here. I humbly called Steve Luchuk N4UTO for assistance. Took the PC to "Doc Steve" so that he could perform some of his

wizardry. The next day, the Wiz called and said the PC could come home. So I retrieved the PC and upon arriving at the QTH, I began to reload and update all my applications. Again every thing was going according to plan. That was until I attempted to reload my backed up files, nothing was there, the CD's were blank. 7 of the 9 cd"s I burned were blank. I was in trouble, I needed the data that I had saved, after all my Freecell Plus records were on the CD's and my growing collection of .WAV files and Ham Radio Clipart.. I must have done something right though, the 2 good CD's were those that contained the XYL's files. Life was not over. By the way if someone is experienced in recovering data from CD's **I NEED HELP**.

Well I have finally settled down and have begun to recreate the lost files. And in the process I discovered the perfect clipart you may have noticed at beginning of this column. "It was ME" one who could handle everything, HI HI. So this clipart is now the official logo for **BOB'S ERRATIC THOUGHTS.**

Many ideas and thoughts are agitating in the cranial cavity this morning. Probably one of the most important is our club. At last month's meeting, there was considerable discussion on the establishment of committee's to facilitate the club's activities. Everyone appeared to be in favor of committees, but there the ways and whys had to be resolved. W4TAT said he would put a comment page on the Mosquito Net Website, which he did, and I might add quite well done. The problem is club response to this comment page has been very poor. This to me is an indicator, that we don't care about the club. No I am not saying that Bud is doing a bad job in running the club. What I am saying is that in just about all organizations there is a small cadre of about 10% that do every thing, while the remaining 90% just sit back reaping the benefits and when the benefits aren't there, it is easier to complain then it is to get off their duffs and help out. I guess now the question is, in what percentage group are you in? Do you want to continue to reap the benefits, and maybe more, or are you just going to sit there in your own little world. I for one want this club to grow and become an example for other amateur radio clubs to follow. We have an opportunity to express ourselves, use our experiences and knowledge for the benefit of the club and amateur radio, LET'S GET OFF OUR DUFFS AND GET ENERGIZED FOR OUR CLUB AND HAM RADIO.

Another very important issue for the entire community is EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS. Our community is situated in an area the has great potential for natural and man-made disasters. We must become knowledgeable and prepare ourselves and families for survival, and assisting our communities in the time of need. How can I help my community? You ask. For one you are a HAM, why not use those skills? You could become active in BEARS or the TARC Emergency Communications activities, what's emergency communications? Get active in your club and find out how you can help. Another way is becoming a member of CERT or Community Emergency Response Teams. Our community has a place for you.

BEARS is in the process of starting classroom training in Emergency Communications. There are 3 levels of training, we all need it. BEARS is looking to TARC to show interested and have many enrollee, so that the class can be held in the North end of the county.

This last week I had the opportunity to travel to Tallahassee to receive indoctrination on the States Emergency Response Teams and how the state and local county's interact during an emergency situation.

BEARS has a growing need for volunteers to become trained on the Communications Vehicles, COMM 1 and COMM 2. TARC needs volunteers to actively participate in the working side of the club. The social side is quite active.

Since I have been in Florida, I have expanded my Ham Radio activities. And have been really enjoying myself. I am in the process of putting together my first real hamshack with and antenna farm. In the meantime I have been active as a mobile. I am relearning the fun and excitement of Amateur Radio. Mobile is another facet of being a ham. It is fun and challenging. I am running barefoot with 100 watts, while the big guys have their house heaters and NASA style antennas to chase DX. I hang in there. And eventually I get lucky. I have been enjoying the DX on 12 meters, yesterday, I worked New South Wales, which is in Australia, a few weeks ago I worked Norfolk Island which is a 2 hour flight North of Australia. I have been working special event stations, dabbled in contesting, and have become active in county hunting.

But my first and most important interests remain and will continue to be TARC and BEARS.

I have great plans for this newsletter and the TARC Website. But again, I can't do it alone, just like the 10%, they need your help. LET'S GET OFF OUR DUFFS AND BECOME ACTIVE IN OUR CLUB, AFTER ALL IT'S YOUR CLUB AND MINE. Besides, once we get off our duffs, then the callouses will soften and go away.

Bob Green N3DMI

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES 3/13/04

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FIRST CLASS MAIL